In the Claims

1. (Amended) A method for assessing the ability of a vaccine composition to stimulate a T cell response, wherein the vaccine composition comprises one or more antigens or one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting antigen presenting cells in culture with the vaccine composition, thereby, if one or more of the antigens or nucleic acid molecules are taken up and processed by the antigen presenting cells, producing one or more processed antigens;

(b) contacting the antigen presenting cells with monoclonal T cells under conditions sufficient for the T cells to respond to the processed antigen; [and]

(c) determining whether the T cells respond to the processed antigen; whereby, if the T cells respond to the processed antigen, the vaccine composition is capable of stimulating a T cell response; and,

if the vaccine composition is capable of stimulating a T cell response, then [;]

(d) assessing the vaccine composition in one or more animals or human subjects.

11. (Amended) A method for selecting one or more vaccine compositions from among a group consisting of two or more vaccine compositions for assessment in an animal or in a human, said vaccine compositions each comprising one or more antigens or one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting antigen presenting cells in culture with a vaccine composition selected from among said group of vaccine compositions, thereby, if one or more of the antigens or nucleic acid molecules are taken up and processed by the antigen presenting cells, producing one or more processed antigens;

(b) contacting the antigen presenting cells with monoclonal T cells under conditions sufficient for the T cells to respond to one or more of the processed antigens;

(c) determining whether the T cells respond to one or more of the processed antigens; whereby if the T cells respond to one or more of the processed antigens, then the vaccine composition stimulates a T cell response;

(d) repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) with each additional vaccine composition in the group, thereby determining whether each vaccine composition stimulates a T cell response; and,

if one or more of the vaccine compositions stimulates a T cell response

(e) selecting at least one vaccine composition which stimulates a T cell response for assessment in one or more animals or human subjects.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the monoclonal T cells are human T cells [cell clones].

14. (Amended) A method for selecting one or more vaccine compositions from among a group consisting of two or more vaccine compositions for *in vivo* assessment in one or more animals or human subjects, said vaccine compositions each comprising one or more antigens or one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting antigen presenting cells in culture with a vaccine composition selected from among said group of vaccine compositions, thereby, if one or more of the antigens or nucleic acid molecules are taken up and processed by the antigen presenting cells, producing one or more processed antigens;

(b) contacting the antigen presenting cells with monoclonal T cells under conditions sufficient to produce a T cell response to one or more of the processed antigens, thereby producing a vaccine composition-stimulated T cell response;

(c) measuring the vaccine composition-stimulated T cell response;

(d) repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) with each of the remaining vaccine compositions in the group, thereby identifying the vaccine composition or compositions which stimulate the greatest T cell response;

(e) selecting the vaccine composition or compositions which stimulate the greatest T cell response for in vivo assessment in one or more animals or human subjects.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 15 wherein the monoclonal T cells are human T cells [cell clones].

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 16 wherein the monoclonal T cells are $CD8^+$ T cells [cell clones] or $CD4^+$ T cells [cell clones].

18. (Amended) A method for assessing the ability of a vaccine composition comprising one or more antigens or one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens to stimulate a human T cell response, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting human antigen presenting cells in culture with the vaccine composition, thereby, if one or more of the antigens or nucleic acid molecules can be taken up and processed by the antigen presenting cells, producing one or more processed antigens;

(b) contacting the antigen presenting cells with human monoclonal T cells under conditions sufficient to produce a T cell response to one or more of the processed antigens, thereby producing a T cell response;

(c) measuring the T cell response; and

if the T cell response is greater than a pre-selected value, then

(d) assessing the ability of the vaccine composition to stimulate a protective T cell response in one or more animals or human subjects.

19. (Amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein the monoclonal T cells are $CD8^+$ T cells [cell clones] or $CD4^+$ T cells [cell clones].

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 18 where the antigen presenting cells are autologous cells with the monoclonal T cells.

Please cancel Claim 10 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 have been amended to include the limitation of Claim 10, indicated as allowable. Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are pending. The remainder of Applicant's remarks are presented below under appropriate subheadings. No new matter is added by this amendment.